

BC 24 Part 2– I Show I am Sanctified by doing Good Works

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **You were chosen by God, called by God, and then justified by God.** After you were justified, God started to sanctify you. **You know (and you show) you are being sanctified when you start to do good works.**

Today you will hear from God's word what are really considered good works and how you are enabled to do them.

Our headings are:

The **Definition of Good Works**

The **Limitation of Good Works**

The **Motivation to Good Works**

Our goals: **That in order to know and show you are being sanctified (which brings honor to your Savior) you will endeavor to know what good works are and do those good works.**

Therefore we do good works, but not to merit by them (for what can we merit?); nay, we are indebted [owe] to God for the good works we do, and not He to us, **since it is He who works in us both to will and to work**, for his good pleasure. Let us therefore attend to what is written: When ye shall have done all the things that are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which it was our duty to do. **In the meantime we do not deny that God rewards good works, but it is through His grace that He crowns His gifts.**

Moreover, though we do good works, **we do not found our salvation upon them;** for we can do no work but what is polluted by our flesh, and also punishable; and although we could perform such works, still the remembrance of one sin is sufficient to make God reject them. Thus, then, we would always be in doubt, tossed to and fro without any certainty, and our poor consciences would be continually vexed **if they relied not on the merits of the suffering and death of our Savior.**

Definition of Good Works

1. Good works, for them to be called good works, must proceed from faith – faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; **for whatever is not from faith is sin.**

a. So if you don't trust in Jesus, your works are unacceptable. Even the most splendid thing you will ever do...saving someone's life, helping the people in The Bahamas to recover from the hurricane, performing life-saving cancer surgery... rescuing a baby from a burning building...giving wise counsel...if you don't believe in Jesus, it is not a good work. If fact, **God will be angry with you for trying to please him without faith**... and your attempt at good works will be condemned.

b. And if you don't have full persuasion or conviction that the work you do is the right thing to do, even if it is a good work, and you still do it, it is sin. Example: If you think that spanking your child is sin, though it isn't, and you still spank your child, then that means you are a hypocrite, violating your conscience. So a good work (spanking your child) can become a sinful work. Others might call your work good because they see the outward actions, but God doesn't call it a good work.

2. Good works, for them to be called good works, must be according to the law of God.

Matthew 5:19-20 - "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Pharisees only pretended to obey the letter of the law and ignore the spirit or the intention. (So they didn't personally kill but paid others to kill for them! Similarly, in our society **we are trained to be nice (obey the letter of the law) because it is good for business, even if we aren't nice inside.** But no work is considered to be good **if it were not done according to the true spirit of the 10 Laws – which is love for God and love for your neighbor.** This is the only "real" good deed.

3. Good works, for them to be called good works, must be done to please God and bring glory to him.

And you must bring glory to God by your good works in every area of your life.

1Corinthians 10:31 - Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1Peter 2:12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, **by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

4. When you do works from faith, based on God's law, and for the glory of Christ, you evidence Christian maturity and you prove to yourself and to others you are being sanctified.

Furthermore, this will lead others to Christ, this will bring glory to God, and this will bring immense reward to you.

Limitation of Good Works

1. Good works are good, but good works can't save you – not in the past, not ever.

God knows you are prone to forget salvation is from the merit of Jesus alone and that you will try to take credit for that which Christ has done, so he warned you not to think good works can save you – including coming to church:

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one** comes to the Father except through Me.

Consider what this teaching does to the teaching of Karma, which says that if you do good, good will come to you! It annihilates the false teaching of Karma. **It is God, and only God, who is good to you!** Only his good work (through Jesus your Lord) can save.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 **not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

Romans 3:10-11 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; **There is none who seeks after God.**

Philippians 2:13 **for it is God who works in you both to will and to do** for His good pleasure.

This means everything you have, you have received! Even your ability to do good comes from God. This is so much against the natural human tendency. Man has too much ego and thinks much of himself. **So this must humble you.**

2. While your good works don't merit your salvation, you *must* respond to your salvation by doing good works – all kinds of good works.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Bluntly put: **For this purpose you were born; for this purpose you were saved – to do good works.**

3. Good works are not only in physical activities, but in inward and outward attitudes and spiritual activities also.

Titus 2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a **pattern of good works;** in doctrine showing **integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,**

a. If you refuse to join others in stealing, or if you refuse to join with your friends in school to tease another student, though it is not a physical work, yet it **is considered a good work.**

b. If you have a bad attitude toward your parents, even if they don't see when you pout, God considers it **a bad work.**

c. If you cheerfully do your task, you get 2 blessings, first for the attitude and second for the task.

4. Good works don't come naturally to anyone.

You need to be taught. Good works must be learned. Good works need to be practiced so they become part of you. Let this sink into your hearts?

Titus 3:14 And let our people also **learn to maintain good works**, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

Idleness and insurgency come naturally! Hatred and hooliganism come naturally. You need to learn (and this means others need to teach) good works. **You need to teach a child to share.** Otherwise, all you will hear from that child is "mine."

Motivation for Good Works

1. God assures you that if you are a Christian you can do good works.

God loved you and restored your ability to love. Love comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

1John 5:3 For this is **the love of God, that we keep His commandments.** And His commandments are not burdensome.

God gives you a job, and he gives you tools to do it...tools to do it well. You always have God's Word and God's Spirit.

2. God encourages Christians through Christians to do good works.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works,**

Don't be angry with a brother or sister who gives you advice to do something better! Don't tell him that it is none of his business. **It is his business.** You are not an island to yourself. He is simply following the command of God to love you. You are your brother's keeper.

3. God rewards Christians who do good works.

While the Christian who does good has only done his duty...yet God is pleased to reward him more.

Luke 17: 10 "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"

And there is a promise of full reward for doing your duty...

Matthew 25:21 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, **I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.**'"

This is most wonderful – **You get a reward (salvation) for relying on what Jesus did for you and letting him move you** to do good. **Even if your work is not perfect,** he is pleased, **out of his grace, to reward you.** And if every Christian in all parts of the world does more good works, your reward is never diminished, for **God has unlimited resources to share.**

4. God is honored and pleased when men do consistent good works.

Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

You are a city on a hill, whether you like it or not, and people are watching you! You show good works in a home, civil, or religious setting: in preaching, hearing, praying, fasting, helping the poor, in the family, in the church, in the world, in private, or in public.

Good works must not be done to make people like you, but to make people like God.

Conclusion:

Your good works can't save you. Some people teach that, but they are wrong. You are only able to do good works (and are commanded to do so) after you are saved. **So what are good works?** Good works are works that **proceed from faith,** are works that are **done according to God's law,** and are works done to **bring glory to God.** If you find that you are doing something because you want people to think highly of you, then it is not a good work. If you do a good work because you want people to love YOU, it is not a good work.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: Here are the facts.

1. God motivates you to do good works. (Saving you and securing you weren't enough.)

2. God equips you to do good works, even giving you the right desires to do good. This assures you that you are saved!

3. God gives you brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage you. Children, encourage your parents. Wives, encourage your husbands. Christians, encourage your pastor.

4. God gives you substantial rewards if you keep his 10 laws in the right way. You can't lose when you serve the Lord. You simply get richer. So keep doing good, regardless of the situation in your life.

5. God is honored when you do good in front of others.

Finally, **the one who is not a Christian cannot do good works, period.** Since good works are commanded, you are in danger of hell if you don't produce good works. **But** don't despair! Christ can fix that problem if you ask him to take away your sins, fill you with his Holy Spirit, make you his child, and enable you to do good works.